



Airport Stormwater Guidance Manual

Public Outreach and Involvement Plan

WSDOT Aviation, along with consultants Herrera and Parametrix, are developing an Airport Stormwater Guidance Manual. The manual is intended to provide guidance on addressing hazardous wildlife attractants, associated with stormwater projects, around airports. The final product will be an addendum to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Highway Run-off Manual (HRM). It will use existing stormwater guidance, except as necessary, to address hazardous wildlife attractants that are inconsistent with safe airport operations.

Approach

The Airport Stormwater Guidance Manual will encompass four phases:

- Phase I includes the development of a draft Technical Memorandum that provides an assessment of regulatory issues, hazardous wildlife attractants, and potential mitigation. Expected timing: December 2006.
- Phase II includes reviewing best management practices and developing guidance to address hazardous wildlife attractants. This phase will include the technical advisory committee and coordination with WSDOT Environmental Services Office and the Department of Ecology. Design guidance thresholds will be adjusted to address wildlife attractants specific to airports. Expected timing: January – September 2007.
- Phase III will involve the development of the airport stormwater guidance manual addendum and interface with the WSDOT Highway Runoff Manual (HRM). Expected timing: September – December 2007.
- Phase IV will include a 20-day public review and comment period. Expected timing: December 2007.

Public Communication Involvement Plan

WSDOT is committed to providing and implementing a communication plan to create awareness of and gather public input on the Aviation Stormwater Guidance Manual addendum to the WSDOT Highway Runoff Manual (HRM).

The communication plan has been drafted in accordance with WSDOT principals and the *FAA's Community Involvement Manual*, FAA-EE-90-03, which provides guidance on system planning public involvement and stakeholder consultation. The FAA Advisory Circular states specifically that:

Appropriate coordination of study drafts with the aviation public, community organizations, airport sponsors and users, and other interested parties is critical to the successful adoption and implementation of the final planning report. It is important that all affected or potentially affected parties perceive that the process is open, that the opportunity for participation exists, and that the study is designed to consider input from all of them.

The following plan embraces that philosophy to assure that the resultant system plan supports the public's best interest.

The Task Force Committee

A 28-member task force of interested parties was established in 2004 to assist in addressing hazardous wildlife attractants near airports. Members of the task force are comprised of legislative staff, airport interests, environmental interests, and state and federal agencies. The committee will assist in the review of technical documents and proposed best management practices, as well as provide crucial input on recommendations to the Airport Stormwater Guidance Manual.

The task force will meet to review and discuss the issues and materials before the manual is presented to the public and WSDOT Aviation Director for final review and recommendations.

A meeting summary will be prepared after each meeting and will be available on the WSDOT Aviation web page.

Project objectives and desired outcomes

- Mitigate hazardous wildlife issues related to stormwater near public use airports.
- Increase citizen and stakeholder awareness of hazardous wildlife issues near airports and the regulatory framework within which the study is conducted.
- Inform citizens and stakeholders about the study process and opportunities for public review and comment.
- Offer an opportunity for interested federal, state, and local agencies to comment on the guidance manual.
- Develop a technical report that includes an assessment of regulatory requirements and potential wildlife attractant hazards at airports.
- Conduct two meetings with the stormwater task force.
- Develop a Web page for the public to view purpose and progress of the Airport Stormwater Manual.
- Provide a 20-day comment period and public meeting to receive public comments on the draft airport stormwater guidance manual addendum to the WSDOT Highway Runoff Manual. The draft manual will be available for public review in December of 2007.
- Update the WSDOT Aviation Advisory Committee during quarterly meetings.

Key dates

This project began in September 2006 with a completion date in January 2008.

The draft Aviation Stormwater Guidance Manual addendum will be made available for a 20-day public review and comment period in December 2007. A public meeting will also be held during the review period to take public comment after a brief presentation of the project. A public notice of availability will be sent out to all interested parties and media sources prior to the comment period.

Team members and affiliations

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Key messages

- Currently, there is no state guidance for stormwater or hazardous wildlife attractants specific to airports.
- The Airport Stormwater Guidance Manual will use existing practices adopted in the WSDOT Highway Run-off Manual (HRM), except as necessary to address hazardous wildlife attractants that are inconsistent with safe airport operations.
- The airport stormwater guidance will be available to federal and state agencies, local jurisdictions, ports and airport sponsors as guidance to address hazardous wildlife attractants in relation to stormwater facilities near public use airports.
- It is important that the Airport Stormwater Guidance Manual addendum is written in a clear, user-friendly way in order to maximize its effectiveness to airports.